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TOPONYMIC DATA FILES: NATIONAL GAZETTEERS

Concise Gazetteer, Germany

Paper submitted by Germany**

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** Prepared by Jörn Sievers, Chairman, and Bernd E. Beinstein, Secretary, Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN) (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names).

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The "Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie "(IfAG), now "Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie" (BKG), had published in 1981 the Gazetteer Federal Republic of Germany, which had been compiled in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations (Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Resolution 16, Montreal 1987) with the cooperation of the Ständiger Ausschuß für geographische Namen (StAGN, permanent committee on geographical names) and the Survey Administrations of the Länder (federal states) of the Federal Republic of Germany. It contained the names of populated places, rivers, lakes, canals, mountains and regions as far as they were shown on the official General Map of Germany at 1:500 000 scale. This included a stock of approximately 15 000 names with a larger number of attributes such as coordinates, geographical feature descriptions or administrative classification, statistical and other data. This Gazetteer was published in printed as well as in digital form. After the German reunification the data stock was extended to the five eastern Länder and East Berlin although initially it appeared as digital data set only.

For international use the United Nations recommended a concise version of national gazetteers (Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Resolution 35, London 1972) which should include a selection of the most important geographical names. As selection criterion for populated places normally a population of larger than 10 000, for rivers and canals a length of approximately 100 km was chosen. The other geographical features were selected on the basis of their importance. The number of attributes was limited to the indication of geographical coordinates, an abbreviated generic term and the relevant Land (federal state) in which the feature was located.

The Concise Gazetteer Germany consists of an alphabetically ordered list of geographical names and a systematically ordered part showing the following feature classes:

- populated places
- waters
- mountain ranges and mountains
- regions and islands

The geographical names in their present official spelling have been entered as main entries. Variant names appear in reduced lettering; they include, e.g. Sorbian names in regions of the cultural and linguistic community of the Sorbs (see example). They have been entered as cross references.

Mnemotechnical abbreviations for the generic terms have the following meanings:

AN	region
CNL	canal
GEM	rural community
IS	island
LAKE	lake (natural)
MT	mountain
MTS	mountain range
RES	reservoir, dam
SEA	sea, part of sea
STA	city, town
STRM	river, stream

Examples of entries:

Kaiserslautern
STA 7° 46.2' E 49° 26.7' N Rheinland-Pfalz

Schwarzwald
MTS 8° 15.4' E 48° 29.0' N Baden-Württemberg

Spree Sprjewja
STRM 13° 12.7' E 52° 32.2' N Sachsen, Brandenburg, Berlin

It is intended to make the Concise Gazetteer Germany available on Internet. After completion single hardcopies also can be obtained from:

StAGN Secretariat
Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie
Richard-Strauss-Allee 11
D-60598 Frankfurt am Main
Fax: +49-69-6333-441
email: beinstein@ifag.de